

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05 /081 W

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R 241210Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9641

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: CASILDO HERRERAS ASSUMES FORMAL LEADERSHIP CGT

REF: A. A-263, B. A-358, C. A-406

SUMMARY. CITING HEALTH REASONS, THE CGT PLACED ITS SECGEN, SEGUNDO PALMA, ON SIX MONTHS LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSECGEN HERRERAS ACTING SECGEN. ACTION TAKEN TO PROVIDE CGT STRONGER LEADERSHIP IN ITS ONGOING BATTLE TO INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE IN NATIONAL POLITICAL ARENA. END SUMMARY

1. IN JAN 22 DECISION CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD PLACED SECGEN PALMA ON SIX MONTHS LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSECGEN CASILDO HERRERAS AS ACTING SECGEN. COMMUNIQUE STATED THAT ACTION WAS TAKEN AS PALMA'S HEALTH DID NOT PERMIT HIM TO /EXERCISE HIS FUNCTIONS IN THE MANNER REQUIRED", AND ADDED THAT THE LEAVE MAY BE EXTENDED "IF NECESSARY". PALMA WAS OPERATED ON FOR PHLEBITIS ON JAN 22 AND SHOULD BE INTERNED FOR APPROXIMATELY TEN DAYS.

2. PALMA PUBLICLY OPPOSED THE ACTION, AND HIS CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (UOCRA) PUBLISHED JAN 21 COMMUNIQUE STATING IT OPPOSED ANY MOVE TO RELIEVE PALMA. IN LAST DITCH EFFORT TO FORESTALL
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ACTION, PALMA SENT LETTER TO CGT REQUESTING THREE WEEKS LEAVE.

ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE SIXTEEN EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT SOUGHT TO ACCEPT THE SHORTER LEAVE, THE MAJORITY VOTED FOR WHAT IN EFFECT AMOUNTS TO A PERMANENT SUSPENSION.

3. COMMENT. ACTION HAS CAUSED SOME BITTERNESS WITHIN THE CGT AND HAS OBVIOUSLY SEVERELY STRAINED UOCRA RELATIONS WITH LORENZO MIGUEL AND CGT. A CGT SOURCE ADVISED LABATT THAT PALMA HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO MIGUEL'S REQUEST THAT HE SEEK AN INDEFINITE LEAVE, BUT THEN REVERSED HIS DECISION ON PRESSURE FROM HIS OWN UNION WHICH DID NOT WANT TO LOSE POSITION WITHIN CGT. REVERSAL REPORTEDLY ANGERED MIGUEL, WHO MADE LITTLE EFFORT TO HIDE HIS DISPLEASURE. A CGT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER WHO WAS IN FAVOR OF ACCEPTING PALMA'S REQUEST FOR SHORT LEAVE OF ABSENCE ADVISED LABATT THAT MIGUEL, HERRERAS AND CARRANZA WERE DRIVING FORCES BEHIND OUSTER.

4. ALTHOUGH ACTION EMBITTERED SOME WITHIN CGT, PERONIST VERTICALITY WILL SERVE TO AVOID ANY OPEN FISSURES. IT IS ALSO PROBABLE THAT SOME MILITARY WILL RESENT PALMA'S OUSTER AS HE REPORTEDLY HAS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE MORE CONSERVATIVE SECTION OF THE MILITARY. PALMA IS IN THE EXTREME RIGHT WING OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. NEVERTHELESS, THE INCREASINGLY CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND LABOR SHOULD NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE ACTION AS MIGUEL AND ALL LABOR HAVE BEEN ASSIDUOUSLY CEMENTING THOSE RELATIONS.

5. PALMA WAS REPLACED BECAUSE OF HIS OBVIOUS INCOMPETENCE. THE CHANGE IS NOT SURPRISING, AS FEW LABOR LEADERS EXPECTED HIM TO COMPLETE HIS TERM (REF A). LABOR'S FRUSTRATION BECAUSE OF ITS INCREASING IMPOTENCY ON THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS (REFS B AND C) LEAD IT TO MAKE THE DISAGREEABLE BUT UNAVOIDABLE DECISION TO REPLACE PALMA AT THIS TIME. LABATT ADVISED BY CGT SOURCES THAT CGT WILL NOW BEGIN FORMULATING AND PRESSING FOR POSITIONS ON ALL MATTERS OF NATIONAL INTEREST. IN SHORT, THE MOVE SIGNIFIES THE BEGINNING OF A NEW OFFENSIVE BY LABOR TO EXPAND ITS POWER IN THE NON-LABOR ARENA. THE MAJOR QUESTION MARK IS WHETHER HERRERAS IS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING THE NECESSARY LEADERSHIP. THE ANSWER IS STILL UNCLEAR. REGARDLESS OF HERRERAS' SUCCESS OR LACK THEREOF, THE MOVE PORTENDS STRAINS WITHIN THE PERONIST MOVEMENT AND THE GOA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS00534
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750027-0461
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750124/aaaaauxc.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 A-263, 75 A-358, 75 A-406
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <16 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CASILDO HERRERAS ASSUMES FORMAL LEADERSHIP CGT
TAGS: ELAB, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006